

REMARKS

With this Response, claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 16 and 20 are amended. No claims are added. Claims 4, 10, 13, 14, 18 and 19 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 5-9, 16, 20 and 21 are pending.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indications that claims 4-8 and 18-20 recite patentable subject matter and that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims and all intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 4 and amended claim 6 into independent form. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 16 to include the subject matter of claim 18 to place the application in condition for allowance. However, Applicant does not acquiesce to the propriety of the rejections and reserves the right to file a continuing application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,338,130 to Sinbaldi et al. (hereinafter “Sinbaldi”).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16 and cancelled claim 13, rendering all rejections thereof moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 14 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sinbaldi, as applied to claims 1 and 13, in view of US Patent No. 6,711,607 to Goyal (hereinafter “Goyal”).

For at least the reason the a claim dependent upon an allowable claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons, Applicant submits the rejections of claims 9, 14 and 21 is moot.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sinbaldi, in view of US Patent No. 6,104,721 to Hsu (hereinafter “Hsu”).

Applicant has cancelled claim 10, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests examination of the above-identified application in view of the response. The absence of additional patentability arguments should not be construed as either a disclaimer of such arguments or that such arguments are not believed to be meritorious.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections of the claims have been overcome herein, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-identified application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies or overpayments in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 02-2666, and is requested to notify us of same.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

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Date

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